



Department of Justice

United States Attorney David E. Nahmias
Northern District of Georgia

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CONTACT: Patrick Crosby

(404)581-6016

FAX (404)581-6160

FORMER POLK COUNTY POLICE CHIEF PLEADS GUILTY TO MAKING FALSE STATEMENTS

Rome, GA - Former Polk County Police Department Chief WILLIAM "Billy" WILLS, JR., 48, pleaded guilty today to making false statements to federal law enforcement officers in connection with an investigation involving firearms stolen from the Police Department.

United States Attorney David E. Nahmias said of the case, "It is always disappointing when someone who has been entrusted to enforce the law instead violates it. This case again illustrates that intentionally making false statements to federal agents in the course of a criminal investigation is a serious federal felony. Chief Wills' betrayal of the public trust insults the integrity and honor of all police officers who risk their lives to uphold the law."

According to Nahmias and information presented in court: On July 22, 2007, and August 16, 2007, WILLS made false statements and representations to federal law enforcement officers concerning whether he had received guns from the Polk County Police Department in contravention of the Department's policies for the disposition of evidence and other property.

WILLS pleaded guilty to two counts of making false statements. He could receive a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison and a fine of up to \$500,000. In determining the actual sentence, the Court will consider the United States Sentencing Guidelines, which are not binding but provide appropriate sentencing ranges for most offenders. Sentencing for WILLS is set for May 23, 2008 at 1:30 p.m.

This case is being investigated by Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, and Explosives and the Georgia Bureau of Investigation.

Assistant United States Attorney Glenn D. Baker is prosecuting the case.

For further information please contact David E. Nahmias (pronounced NAH-me-us), United States Attorney, or Charysse L. Alexander, Executive Assistant United States Attorney, through Patrick Crosby, Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Attorney's Office, at (404) 581-6016. The Internet address for the HomePage for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia is www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan.